

The North Star Bar celebrates its 10th Anniversary with two weeks of events that include music, art shows and special dinners. The fun blasts off Friday, Oct. 4th with the fine blues band Queen Bee and the Blue Hornet Band, continuing the next night with a dinner to benefit Action Aids with music by Philly Gumbo plus a special appearance by Funny Gay Males. Sunday features an Invitational Art Exhibit and reception by artists whose work has been shown there during the past decade. Monday and Tuesday, there will be all kinds of food specials with a return to prices from 10 years ago, plus a poetry reading Tuesday by Ron Bennet and Ketan Ben Caesar. Wednesday, there's an all-star jam while Thursday (Oct. 10) features the return of "Song-Splash", hosted by Grammy winner Julie Gold, and such local songwriters as Joseph Parsons, Bekka Eaton, Kenn Kweder, Juan Avila, Ben Arnold and Beth Williams. Friday, Oct. 11th, there's a real musical treat with the great Chicago blues saxophonist Eddie Shaw and the Wolf Gang, which was the band of the late great Howlin' Wolf, with regulars the Dukes of Destiny returning the next night, with their hot blend of blues, R. and B. and soul. The fun culminates Sunday, Oct. 13 with a "10th Anniversary Reunion Harvest Dinner" with guest chef Bruce Bogartz flying in from Aspen to prepare, in addition to the return of the original North Star Bartenders. The North Star in addition to being one of the more pleasant places for dining and conversation has consistently supported local artists and musicians. All these events should be fun.

North Star 10th Anniversary Blastoff: Fri., Oct. 4-Sun., Oct. 13. 27th and Poplar Sts., 235-STAR.

--Peter Brown